

ADM 1/4360/[58-65]
Bathurst to Ross

Copy -

MOST SECRET

War Department, London,
6th Septem^r 1814 -

[To Major General Ross
Command^r His Majesty's Troops
on the Coast of the United States]

Sir,

It appears by Dispatches which have been received from Vice Admiral Sir Alex^r Cochrane that he considered it advisable to direct His Majesty's Arms against the Southern Extremity of the United States, & that by supporting the Indian Tribes situated in the confines of Florida, & in the back parts of Georgia, it would be very easy to reduce New Orleans, & to distress the Enemy very seriously in the Neighboring Provinces. - The Vice Admiral appears to have considered a body of 2000 Troops (exclusive of the Marines, & the Naval forces he had already at his disposal) to be requisite for carrying these objects into execution. He was not aware at the time he wrote that you were upon your Passage to join him. The brigade which you carried from the Grande is supposed to have consisted of above 2300 effective men; & you were authorized to choose any one of three Battalions which sailed about the same time from Gibraltar for Bermuda, the strongest of these Battalions consisting of above 1100 Rank & file. - I calculate therefore that your ~~force~~ Corps will have amounted to 3400 men, inclusive of the Marines; - a force very superior to what Sir ~~Alexander~~ Cochrane had contemplated as necessary for an Expedition to the Southward.

His Majesty's Government however are desirous to render the force under your Command so